6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to ~~an~~ the ectodermal disorder.

7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome.

8. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

9-21. (Canceled)

22. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated.

23. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated.

24. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

25. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

26. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

27. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

28. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, herein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

29. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder.

30. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

31. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, herein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

32. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

33. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step is performed inferentially by determining a diagnostic sequence of the TAJ gene or gene product in the individual, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

34. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ gene transcript, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

35. (New) The method according to claim 1, wherein the detecting step comprises detecting a TAJ protein, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, wherein the TAJ gene or gene product is a variant correlated with the presence of or predisposition to the ectodermal disorder, wherein the ectodermal disorder is an ectodermal dysplasia syndrome and the syndrome is Clouston syndrome.

REMARKS

Amendments

Claim 1 is amended in accordance with our proposed amendment submitted Aug 27, 2001, to restrict application of the method to a host predetermined to be at elevated risk of having or being predisposed to a particular ectodermal disorder. This embodiment is described, inter alia, in Examples IV and VI, and is intended to emphasize that the claims do not require that the practitioner make large numbers of clinical correlations, expressly requiring that the particular disorder be predetermined as applicable to the subject cell. New claims 22-23 further require that the recited TAJ gene or gene product is truncated, as exemplified in Tables 1 and 2 (p.3, line 16 - p.4, line 3; and p.4, line 31 - p.6, line 2). New claims 24-29 apply the limitation of claim 6 to additional dependent claims; and new claims 30-35 apply the limitation of claim 8 to